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Howard Langfitt Farm Families of the Week

1950

Whitaker, Vernon Script

Howard Langfitt

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W L B T

[Whitaker]

CONTINUITY

FOR _____

DATE _____

BY _____

TIME _____

VIDEO

AUDIO

CAMERA ON LANGFITT

SLIDE FARM-1
HOUSE

ON THIS CHRISTMAS EVE WE ARE INDEED PROUD AND HAPPY TO SALUTE ANOTHER FARM FAMILY MAKING A REAL CONTRIBUTION TO THEIR COMMUNITY AND THE FARMING IN MISSISSIPPI. TODAY'S FAMILY LIVES IN THE DELTA SECTION OF YAZOO COUNTY AND WAS SELECTED WITH THE COOPERATION OF YAZOO COUNTY AGENT, PAT MCGOWAN. THE HOME OF MR. AND MRS. VERNON WHITAKER IS LOCATED IN THE SMALL YAZOO COUNTY TOWN OF SATARTIA. THEIR LAND LIES TO THE SOUTH AND WEST OF SATARTIA AND CONSISTS OF ABOUT 2600 ACRES, OWNED AND RENTED BY THE WHITAKERS. VERNON WHITAKER OWNS 1100 ACRES AND RENTS 1500 MORE. MR. AND MRS. VERNON WHITAKER GREW UP IN THE HILL SECTION OF YAZOO COUNTY AND STILL ATTEND CHURCH AT PHOENIX METHODIST CHURCH IN THE COMMUNITY WHERE THEY WERE RAISED. BOTH MR. AND MRS. WHITAKER WERE RAISED ON THE FARM AND HAVE REMAINED ON THE FARM TO MAKE A LIVELIHOOD FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR TWO CHILDREN. MR. WHITAKER MANAGED A FARM FOR THE FIRST 15 YEARS AFTER HE AND MRS. WHITAKER WERE MARRIED. IN 1941 VERNON WHITAKER BECAME A RENTER AND IN 1943 BOUGHT HIS FIRST LAND, CONSISTING OF 200 ACRES, AND HAS ADDED TO THIS

W L B T

CONTINUITY

FOR _____

DATE _____

BY _____

TIME _____

VIDEO

AUDIO

SLIDE FARM-2
HOGS IN CORN

TO THIS LAND AS HE HAS BEEN ABLE IN THE YEARS THAT HAVE FOLLOWED. VERNON WHITAKER IS A FARMER WITH A COMPLETELY DIVERSIFIED FARM PROGRAM. ONE OF HIS MAJOR FARM ENTERPRISES IS HOGS. RIGHT NOW HE HAS ABOUT 50 HEAD OF HOGS ON THE FARM. NORMALLY ABOUT 500 HEAD ARE CARRIED THROUGH IN THE COURSE OF A YEAR. 50 HEAD WERE SOLD LAST WEEK AND ANOTHER 200 HEAD WERE SOLD EARLIER IN THE FALL. MR. WHITAKER TRIES TO MARKET HIS HOGS AT 200 TO 240 POUNDS. MR. WHITAKER HAS ABOUT 25 BROOD SOWS AND THEY RAISE ABOUT 300 PIGS PER YEAR. THEY ARE BRED TO REGISTERED DUROC BOARS AND ARE BRED TO FARROW IN THE SPRING AND THE FALL. WHEN THE BIGS ARE FARROWED THEY ARE CARRIED ON RANGE IN THESE SHELTER HOUSES UNTIL THEY ARE OLD ENOUGH TO TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES WHEN THEY ARE TURNED INTO OATS, CLOVER AND CORN FIELDS DEPENDING ON THE SEASON. EXCEPT FOR 40 ACRES OF CORN WHICH IS PULLED FOR FEED, ALL CORN IS HOGGED DOWN. MR. WHITAKER HAS ABOUT 200 ACRES OF CORN, 150 ACRES OF OATS AND A HUNDRED ACRES IN PERMANENT PASTURE. THE OTHER 1600 ACRES IS IN TIMBER WHICH IS ALSO GRAZED.

SLIDE FARM-3
RANGE SHELTERS

CONTINUITY

DATE _____

TIME _____

SLIDE FARM-5
CATTLE

W L B T

CONTINUITY

FOR _____

DATE _____

BY _____

TIME _____

VIDEO

AUDIO

SLIDE FARM-6
BULL

SLIDE FARM-8
2 MEN

SLIDE FARM-7
SHELTER

SLIDE FARM-9
BARN

TO RUN BEHIND THE COMBINE. MR. WHITAKER RAISES ABOUT A HUNDRED HEAD OF CALVES A YEAR AND GETS ALMOST A HUNDRED PERCENT RETURN ON HIS BREEDING PROGRAM. HIS PERMANENT PASTURE CONSISTS LARGELY OF FESCUE, BERMUDA, DALLIS GRASS AND CLOVER AND WILD WINTER PEAS. THE TEMPORARY GRAZING CONSISTS LARGELY OF OATS AND RYE GRASS. HERE WE SEE MR. WHITAKER AND COUNTY AGENT PAT MCGOWAN AS THEY LOOK OVER A FIELD OF FESCUE WHICH CARRIED TWO COWS TO THE ACRE UNTIL JULY, WAS THEN RESTED FOR A MONTH AND A HALF, AND THEN AGAIN CARRIED TWO COWS TO THE ACRE UNTIL A WEEK AGO WHEN THEY WERE TAKEN OFF FOR THE WINTER. VERNON WHITAKER PROVIDES SHELTER FOR ALL HIS LIVESTOCK. SOME OF IT IS OF A TEMPORARY NATURE AS THE STOCK IS SHIFTED FROM FIELD TO FIELD. MOST OF IT IS OF THIS TYPE WHICH IS BUILT IN SUCH A WAY THAT THE CENTER OF THE SHELTER IS A CORN CRIB AND OPEN FEEDING SHELTER IS LOCATED ON EITHER SIDE. MR. WHITAKER BUILDS ALL HIS OWN BARNS FROM TIMBER CUT OFF HIS LAND. VERNON WHITAKER FOLLOWS ALL EXPERIMENT STATION RECOMMENDATIONS ON FERTILIZATION, LAND USE AND PARASITE CONTROL.

CONTINUITY

DATE _____

TIME _____

SLIDE FARM 10
FENCE

W L B T

CONTINUITY

FOR _____

DATE _____

BY _____

TIME _____

VIDEO

AUDIO

SLIDE FARM-12
WATER TANK

SLIDE FARM-13
POND

SLIDE FARM-14
LAKE

SLIDE FARM-15

WAS PUT UP THIS YEAR BECAUSE HE HAD PLENTY ON HAND TO CARRY HIM THROUGH ANOTHER SEASON. THE ENTIRE LIVESTOCK PROGRAM IS BASED ON PASTURE CORN AND OATS. YOU CAN WELL IMAGINE THAT WATER IS IMPORTANT TO SUCH A LIVESTOCK PROGRAM, BUT IT'S NO PROBLEM WITH VERNON WHITAKER. HE USES THREE METHODS OF KEEPING A CONSTANT SUPPLY OF WATER AVAILABLE TO HIS HOGS AND CATTLE. ONE IS WATER FROM AN ARTESIA: WELL, WITH AN AUTOMATIC FLOAT, PROTECTED BY COVER TO KEEP THE TANK FULL AT ALL TIMES. ANOTHER SOURCE OF WATER IS A NUMBER OF FLAT LAND PONDS, SUCH AS THIS ONE....DRAINAGE DITCH ARE CUT IN SUCH A WAY THAT RUN-OFF WATER IS DRAINED INTO THESE PONDS TO CREATE THIS ADDITIONAL WATER SUPPLY. IN FACT LEVIES ARE BUILT TO KEEP WATER OFF THE LAND FROM CREEKS, AND DRAINAGE DITCHES ARE BUILT TO TAKE RUN-OFF WATER WHERE IT CAN BEST BE USED. THE THIRD SOURCE OF WATER AVAILABLE TO VERNON WHITAKER IS FROM DUMP LAKE, HALF OF WHICH BELONGS TO VERNON WHITAKER. THERE WAS A TIME WHEN MUCH MORE OF THE LAND OWNED AND FARMED BY VERNON WHITAKER WAS IN TIMBER, BUT TODAY IT IS PRODUCTIVE PASTURE AND CROP LAND BECAUSE OF

W L B T

CONTINUITY

FOR _____

DATE _____

BY _____

TIME _____

VIDEO	AUDIO
<p>SLIDE <u>FARM-16</u> GOATS</p> <p>SLIDE <u>FARM-17</u> LOGS</p> <p>SLIDE <u>FARM-18</u> LUMBER</p>	<p>A VAST LAND CLEARING PROGRAM BEING CARRIED OUT BY MR. WHITAKER. THIS 100 ACRES WAS TIMBER AND SCRUB BRUSH THREE YEARS AGO, BUT IS TODAY A FINE FIELD OF FESCUE FOR GRAZING. OVER THE PAST 3 YEARS MR. WHITAKER HAS CLEARED OVER 150 ACRES OF LAND AND MADE IT PRODUCTIVE. HE BOUGHT A BULLDOZER AND USED IT UNTIL HE HAD CLEARED THE LAND, THEN SOLD IT AGAIN. ANOTHER FORM OF LAND CLEARING IS THIS HERD OF GOATS. IN ALL MR. WHITAKER HAS 400 HEAD OF GOATS WHICH HE USES FOR THIS PURPOSE. HE HAS A READY MARKET FOR ALL HE CARES TO SELL EVERY YEAR. YOU MAY ASK WHAT DOES MR. WHITAKER DO WITH HIS TIMBER? THIS PICTURE TELLS PART OF THE STORY. ALL OF HIS BUILDINGS ARE BUILT OF CYPRISS FROM HIS TIMBER. THESE LOGS ARE CUTT OFF THE LAND BY THE FARM LABOR, THE SAWING IS HIRED DONE AND LUMBER IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE TO MEET ANY BUILDING REQUIREMENTS. IN ADDITION MR. WHITAKER SETS OUT LOCUST FOR POSTS AND SETS OUT PINE, WHICH HE PROTECTS FROM FIRE, THUS KEEPING A CONSTANT SUPPLY OF TIMBER ON THE LAND. THE TIMBER IS HARVESTED ACCORDING TO RECOMMENDED PRACTICES ABOUT EVERY</p>

W L B T

CONTINUITY

FOR _____

DATE _____

BY _____

TIME _____

VIDEO

AUDIO

SLIDE FARM-19
HOUSE

SLIDE FARM-20
MACHINE SHED

SLIDE FARM-21
STORE

TEN YEARS. BESIDES BARNs AND FEED BUNKS AND OTHER LUMBER USES, MR. WHITAKER AND HIS FARM LABOR HAVE BUILT THIS LOVELY LITTLE HOME FOR THE WHITAKER'S SON. THE HOUSE IS BUILT ENTIRELY OF CYPRUS LUMBER. MECHANIZATION IS THE KEY TO THE VAST FARMING ENTERPRISE OF VERNON WHITAKER. THIS IS ONLY ONE OF MANY MACHINERY SHEDS TO HOUSE THE MACHINERY AND PROTECT IT FROM THE WEATHER. A PASTURE DREAM IS USED TO SEED OATS INTO PERMANENT PASTURE FOR EARLY GRAZING...ALL COTTON IS PICKED MECHANICALLY....BY THE WAY, ALL COTTON IS CROSS-PLOWED AND HAND LABOR IS NEVER NEEDED IN THE FIELDS. MR. WHITAKER SAYS YIELDS ARE EVERY BIT AS GOOD AS WITH ANY OTHER METHOD OF PLANTING. ALL COTTON SEED THAT IS NEEDED ON THE PLACE IS SAVED, AS WELL AS ALL OAT SEED TOO. ALL CORN THAT IS PICKED IS ALSO PICKED WITH MECHANICAL PICKERS. BESIDES HIS REGULAR CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRAM VERNON WHITAKER HAS SOME SUPPLEMENTAL INCOME FROM HIS FARM. THIS STORE WHICH SETS ON THE BANK OF DUMP LAKE IS OWNED BY MR. WHITAKER AND LEASED OUT EACH YEAR IN ADDITION HE HAS SOLD TURTLE RIGHTS TO HIS HALF OF THE LAKE FOR \$200 PER YEAR AND ALSO

W L B T

CONTINUITY

FOR _____

DATE _____

BY _____

TIME _____

VIDEO

AUDIO

SLIDE FARM 22
DEEP FREEZE

SLIDE FARM 23
TREE

COMMERCIAL FISHING RIGHTS RIGHTS FOR ANOTHER \$200 YEARLY. IN ADDITION VERNON WHITAKER WAS ELECTED SUPERVISOR IN YAZOO COUNTY 11 YEARS AGO AND HAS SERVED CONTINUOUSLY SINCE THAT TIME. SOME LAND IS RENTED OUT TO OTHER NEIGHBORING FARMERS. FROM THEIR ACRE GARDEN AND FROM THEIR LIVESTOCK ENTERPRISE AND FROM THEIR FISHING AND HUNTING HOBBIES MR. AND MRS. WHITAKER FREEZE MORE THAN A THOUSAND POUNDS OF FOOD EACH YEAR. NO MORE DOES MRS. WHITAKER CAN FRUIT AND VEGETABLES SINCE RURAL ALECTRICT AND THE FACILITIES TO DEEP FREEZE CAME TO THE WHITAKER HOUSEHOLD. AS WE VISITED THE WHITAKER HOME ON WEDNESDAY. MR. AND MRS. WHITAKER AND THEIR DAUGHTER AND HER HUSBAND WERE BUSY WITH A GOOD OLD AMERICAN TRADITION. THEY WERE TRIMMING THE CHRISTMAS TREE. IT WAS A FAMILY PROJECT, MUCH THE SAME AS IT WAS WHEN I WAS GROWING UP ON THE FARM. THERE IS MUCH MORE TO THE STORY OF MR. AND MRS. VERNON WHITAKER AND THEIR FAMILY....MUCH TOO MUCH TO TELL IN THIS SHORT PERIOD OF TIME. HOWEVER, I DO WANT TO SAY THAT MR. WHITAKER IS VERY CONSCIOUS OF HIS CIVIC RESPONSIBILITIES TO HIS COMMUNITY AND HIS COUNTY. HE IS PRESIDENT OF

W L B T

CONTINUITY

FOR _____

DATE _____

BY _____

TIME _____

VIDEO

AUDIO

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CAMERA ON LANGFITT

THE SATARTIA CITIZEN'S COUNCIL, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE YAZOO COUNTY FARM BUREAU, PRESIDENT OF THE YAZOO COUNTY WILDLIFE FEDERATION, DIRECTOR OF THE MISSISSIPPI FARM BUREAU, A DIRECTOR OF THE YAZOO SERVICE COMPANY, HANDLING ANHYDROUS AMONIA FOR FARM FOLKS, TRUSTEE OF HIS CHURCH'S PROPERTY, MASON, SHRINER, ODD-FELLOW, MEMBER OF THE ELKS CLUB AND MANY OTHER THINGS TOO NUMEROUS TO MENTION. MRS. WHITAKER IS A MEMBER OF THE PHOENIX-GERMANIA HOME DEMONSTRATION CLUB, A LOCAL 4-H CLUB LEADER AND MEMBER OF THE YAZOO COUNTY 4-H CLUB COUNCIL....AND ON AND ON THE STORY GOES....RIGHT NOW, I WANT YOU TO MEET THIS WONDERFUL FAMILY WE ARE INDEED PROUD AND HAPPY TO SALUTE AS THE "RFD TELEVISIT" FARM FAMILY OF THE WEEK.